INHUMANS™ VS X-MEN®

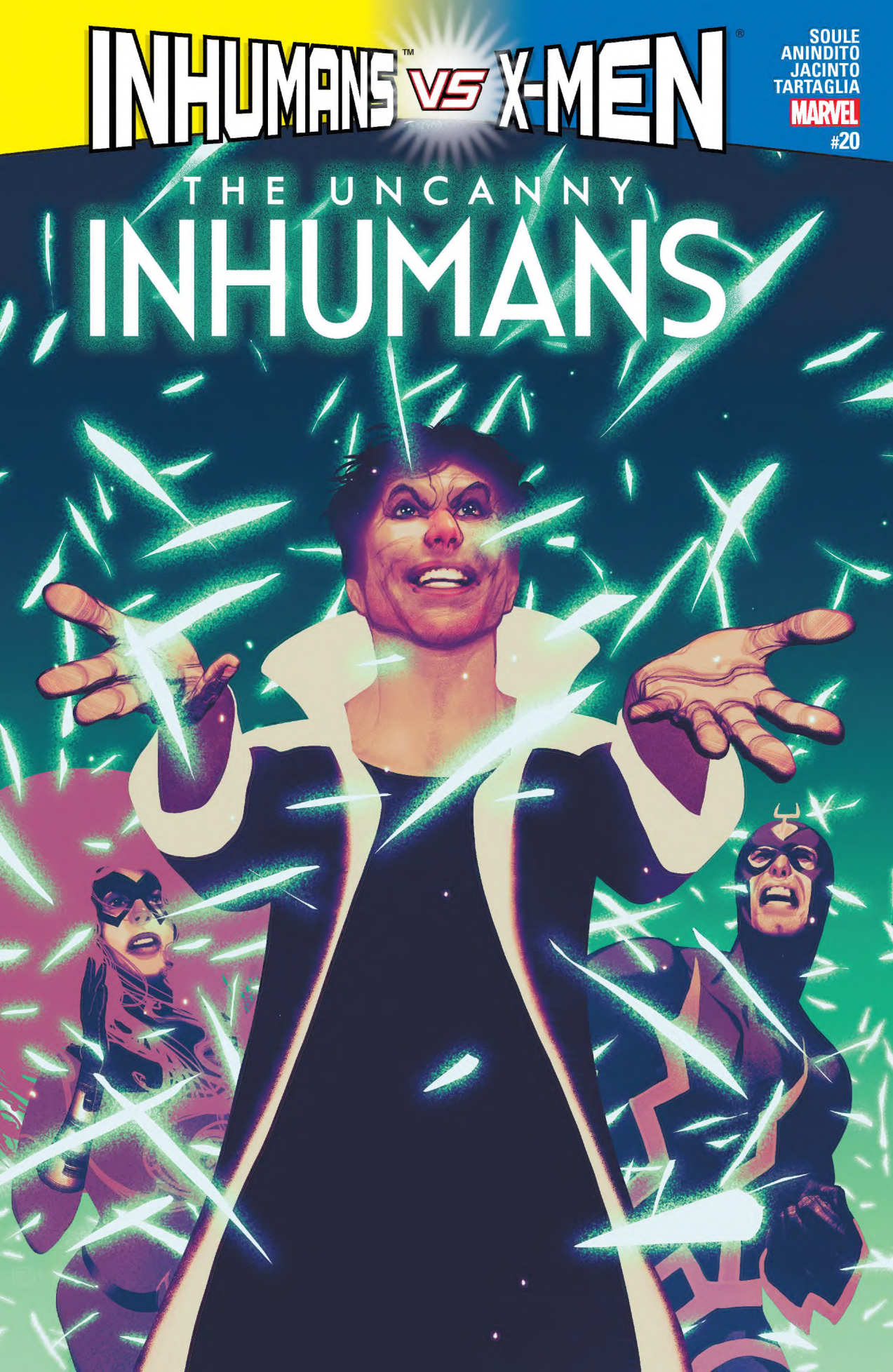
SOULE
ANINDITO
JACINTO
TARTAGLIA

MARVEL

#20

THE UNCANNY

INHUMANS



Thousands of years ago aliens experimented on cavemen, supercharging their evolution, and then mysteriously left their experiments behind. These men and women built the city of Attilan and discovered a chemical called Terrigen that unlocked secret super-powers in their modified DNA, making them...

THE UNCANNY INHUMANS

LINEAGE

MAXIMUS

TRITON

THE UNSPOKEN

BANYAN

Some time ago, desperate to protect his people from an oncoming threat, Black Bolt, the Inhuman king, with the help of his brother, the Mad Prince Maximus, detonated a bomb and dispersed massive clouds of Terrigen into Earth's atmosphere.

The Terrigen's release ushered in a new age for the Inhumans——dormant Inhumans across the planet have manifested powers and learned of their heritage. But the catalyst has also had deadly effects on mutantkind. Both the X-Men and the Inhumans have exhausted resources to protect mutants from Terrigen sickness, but their efforts have been futile.

As the X-Men seek to destroy the remaining Terrigen Cloud, Maximus——and his motley crew of Inhuman outcasts (one of whom Maximus betrothed to a sea monstress)——have been working in stealth on a plan to recreate more stable and less lethal Terrigen crystals!

CHARLES SOULE
WRITER

ARIO ANINDITO
ARTIST

JAVA TARTAGLIA
COLOR ARTIST

VC'S CLAYTON COWLES
LETTERER

FRAZER IRVING
COVER ARTIST

DECLAN SHALVEY & JORDIE BELLAIRE
VARIANT COVER ARTISTS

CHARLES BEACHAM
ASST. EDITOR

WIL MOSS
EDITOR

AXEL ALONSO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

JOE QUESADA
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER

DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

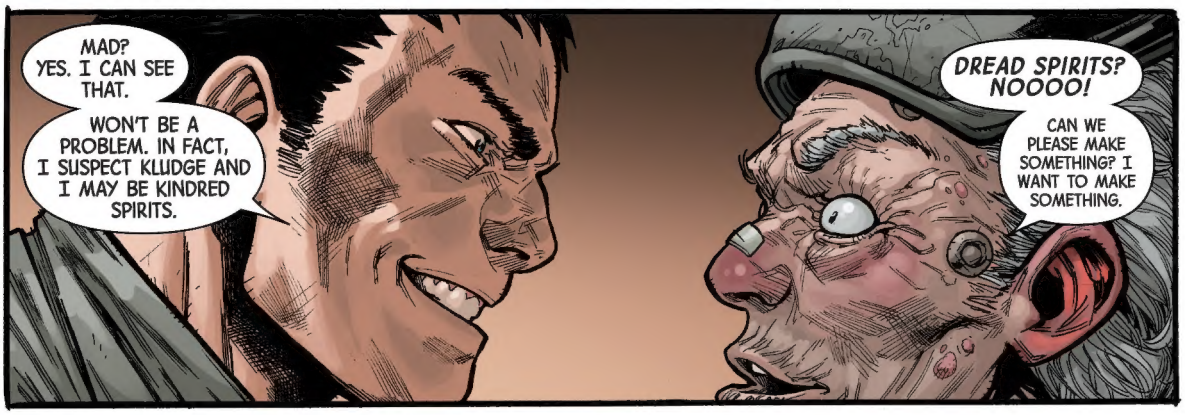
ALAN FINE
EXEC. PRODUCER

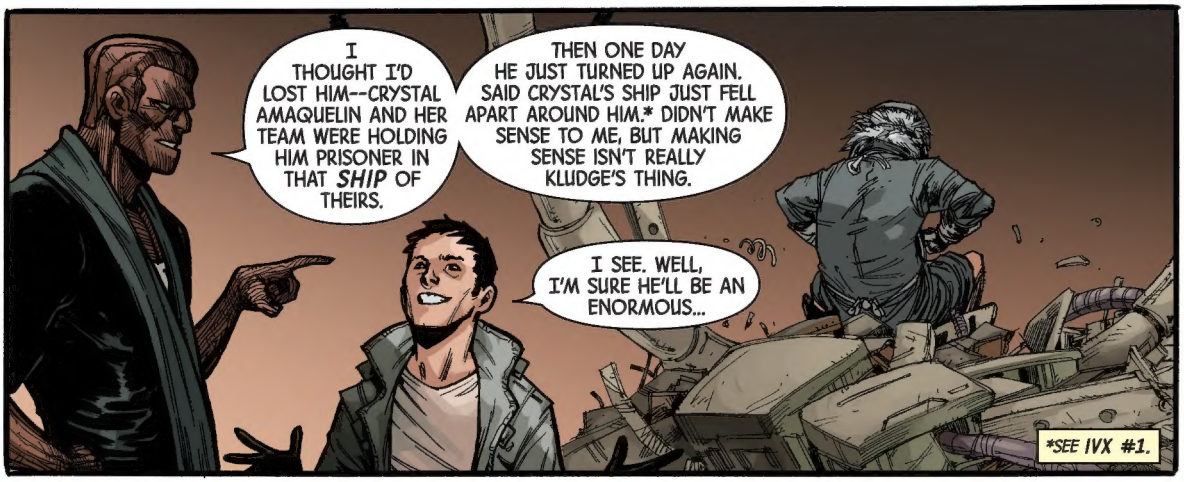
INHUMANS CREATED BY STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

© 2017 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. WWW.MARVEL.COM

INDIA.
फ़ैक्टरी
OKAY, EVERYONE.
TIME FOR THE BIG FINISH.

LET ME SHOW YOU THE SETUP.
THANK YOU, BANYAN, THAT WOULD BE LOVELY.
EVERYTHING YOU ASKED FOR.
OOH.
GIVING YOU SOME OF MY BEST WORKERS, TOO.
EXCELLENT! THIS JOB INVOLVES A GREAT DEAL OF UGLY, DANGEROUS, HANDS-ON WORK.
THESE GENTLEMEN LOOK *PERFECT.*
AND WHO IS *THIS* LOVELY YOUNG MAN?
THIS IS KLUDGE. HE'S INHUMAN--THE TERRIGEN CLOUD MADE HIM AN INCREDIBLE ENGINEER.
I WAS THINKING HE COULD BE YOUR ASSISTANT. HE CAN BUILD *ANYTHING*, BUT TERRIGENESIS LEFT HIM A LITTLE BIT...


MAD? YES. I CAN SEE THAT.
WON'T BE A PROBLEM. IN FACT, I SUSPECT KLUDGE AND I MAY BE KINDRED SPIRITS.
DREAD SPIRITS? NOOOO!
CAN WE PLEASE MAKE SOMETHING? I WANT TO MAKE SOMETHING.

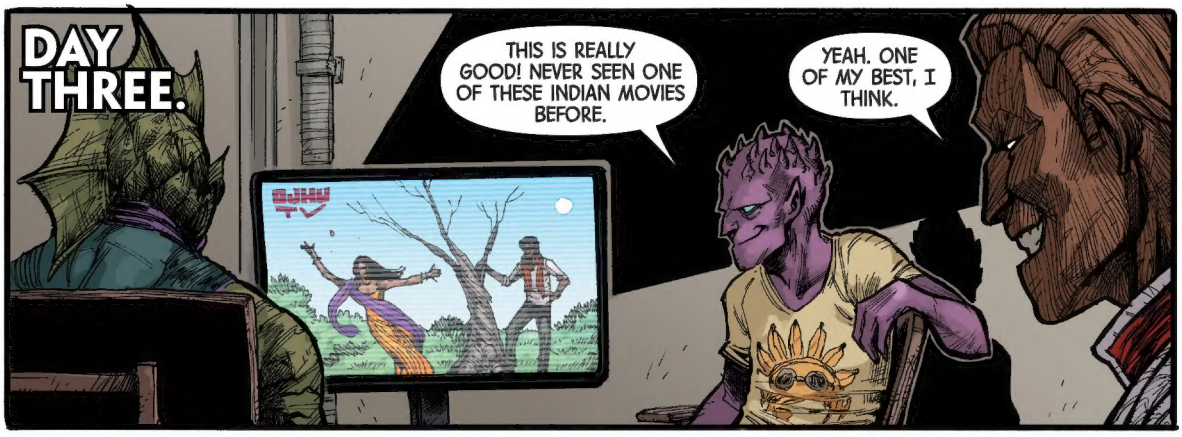

I THOUGHT I'D LOST HIM--CRYSTAL AMAQUELIN AND HER TEAM WERE HOLDING HIM PRISONER IN THAT SHIP OF THEIRS.
THEN ONE DAY HE JUST TURNED UP AGAIN. SAID CRYSTAL'S SHIP JUST FELL APART AROUND HIM.* DIDN'T MAKE SENSE TO ME, BUT MAKING SENSE ISN'T REALLY KLUDGE'S THING.
I SEE. WELL, I'M SURE HE'LL BE AN ENORMOUS...
*SEE IVX #1.

I MADE SOMETHING.
OH, MY GOODNESS. I MIGHT JUST LOVE THIS PERSON.
ALL RIGHT, OUT WITH YOU. I NEED TO WORK.
WAIT A SECOND, MAXIMUS. PULLING ALL OF THIS TOGETHER FOR YOU COST ME A FORTUNE. I NEED TO RECOUP MY INVESTMENT.
HOW LONG UNTIL YOU'RE PRODUCING TERRIGEN CRYSTALS IN HERE? HOW LONG BEFORE I CAN SELL THEM?
SOON ENOUGH, MY FRIEND! BUT MUCH LESS SOON IF YOU DISTURB ME WHILE I'M WORKING!
ALL RIGHT, YOU CRAZY OLD COOT. LET'S MAKE SOME MAGIC.

MAXIMUS SEEMS LIKE HE'LL BE DISTRACTED FOR A WHILE, TRITON. YOU THINK MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE?
BEFORE HE MARRIES US OFF TO SOME MONSTER OR SETS US ON FIRE OR WHATEVER HE'S GONNA DO, I MEAN.
AND GO WHERE, LINEAGE? HE'D FIND US EVENTUALLY.
NO. I HAVE A BETTER IDEA.
I'M GOING TO WAIT UNTIL HE RECREATES TERRIGEN CRYSTALS. IF HE CAN ACTUALLY DO IT, EVERYTHING WOULD CHANGE FOR INHUMANITY. THAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT THING.
BUT ONCE HE'S DONE, YOU'RE GOING TO ATTACK HIM. GO HARD, WITH EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT. FORCE HIM TO TAKE OVER YOUR MIND, SO HE'S DISTRACTED.
THEN I'LL GUT HIM LIKE A FISH.
LIKE A *FISH?* ISN'T THAT...LIKE... THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN DO IT?
HEH.
ANYWAY, I LIKE IT. I'M IN.

DAY ONE.
KRRRRNK
BZZZZ

DAY TWO.
ZZZZCHK
TH-CRNK


DAY THREE.
THIS IS REALLY GOOD! NEVER SEEN ONE OF THESE INDIAN MOVIES BEFORE.
YEAH. ONE OF MY BEST, I THINK.

WAIT, THAT'S *YOU?*
YEAH. BEFORE THE CLOUD. COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE. I COULD HAVE ENDED UP LOOKING LIKE A SPIKY PURPLE MONSTER.
HEY, COME ON NOW, *MONSTER?* THAT'S UNCALLED FOR. I HAPPEN TO THINK I LOOK PRETTY GOO--
FINISHED!

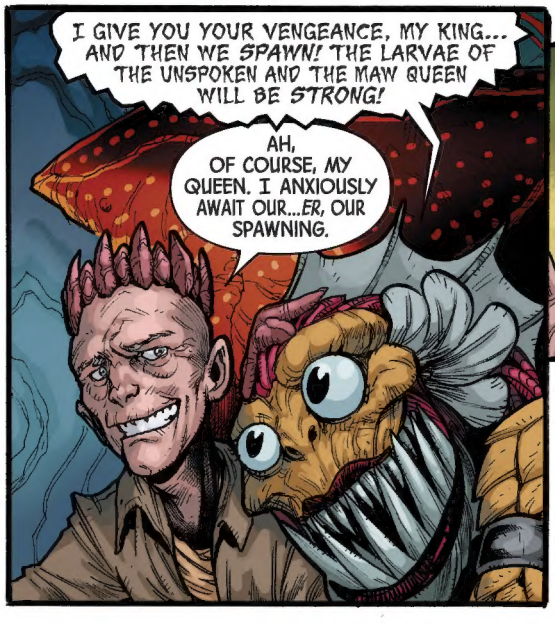
WELL... WHAT DO YOU THINK?
ISN'T SHE BEAUTIFUL?
BEAUTIFUL!
IS THIS...DID YOU MAKE A GIANT ROBOT?
ABSOLUTELY! WELL SPOTTED!
MAXIMUS... WHAT ABOUT THE TERRIGEN? YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE BUILDING A MACHINE TO MAKE TERRIGEN.
I KNOW, BUT I WAS THINKING...IS A CRYSTAL FABRICATOR REALLY MY STYLE? I SAY NO.
IF I'M GOING TO SAVE THE INHUMANS FROM THE AGGRESSION OF THE EVIL X-MEN, I DON'T WANT TO DO IT BY MAKING SOME GREEN ROCKS. THAT'S BORING.
THAT'S SOMETHING MAXIMUS THE MUNDANE WOULD DO.
BUT THIS...THIS IS THE ACT OF MAXIMUS THE MAGNIFICENT!
MAGNIFICENT!
THERE'S PLENTY OF ROOM FOR YOU TWO IN THE COCKPIT. FIGURED YOU GUYS MIGHT WANT TO GO STEP ON SOME MUTANTS WITH ME.
SHALL WE?
DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY CRORE I WASTED ON ALL THIS, YOU PIECE OF--
MAXIMUS BOLTAGON!
UH...IS IT ME, OR DOES THAT SOUND LIKE THE UNSPOKEN?

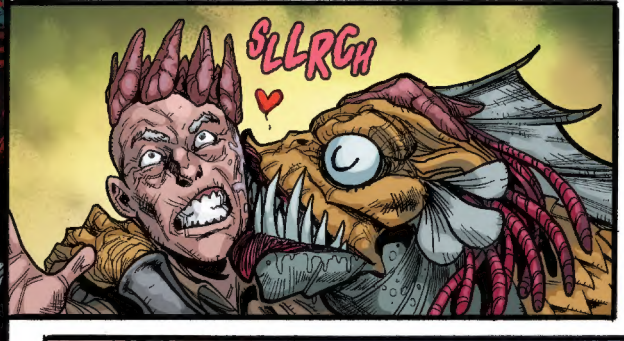
GET OUT HERE, YOU LYING, MANIPULATIVE TRASH!

GET OUT HERE AND FACE MY WRATH!

THAT'S THE UNSPOKEN, ALL RIGHT. HE MUST BE HERE FOR THE TERRIGEN CRYSTALS.
WHICH YOU DIDN'T MAKE.
OR MAYBE HE'S TICKED BECAUSE YOU USED YOUR POWERS TO MAKE HIM MARRY A CUTTLEFISH. MAYBE.

NO TIME TO FIGURE IT OUT *NOW!* COME ON, KLUDGE!


I GIVE YOU YOUR VENGEANCE, MY KING... AND THEN WE *SPAWN!* THE LARVAE OF THE UNSPOKEN AND THE MAW QUEEN WILL BE *STRONG!*
AH, OF COURSE, MY QUEEN. I ANXIOUSLY AWAIT OUR...*ER*, OUR SPAWNING.

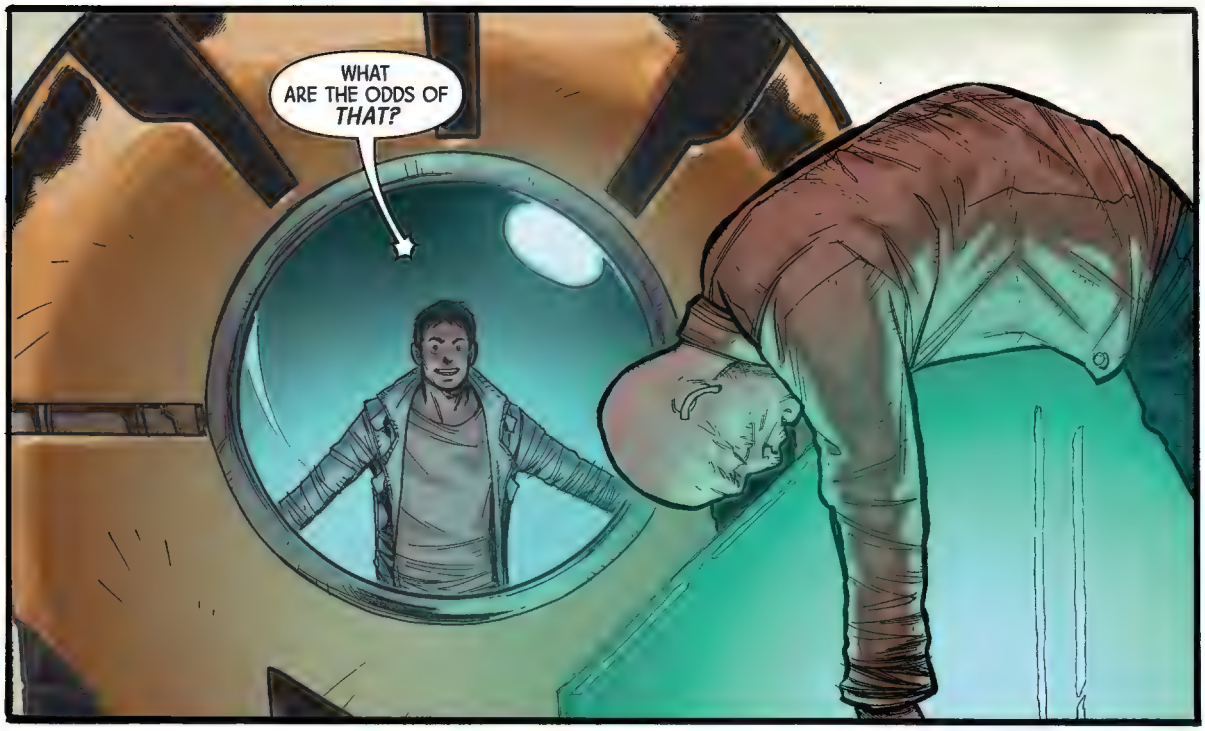

SLLRGH

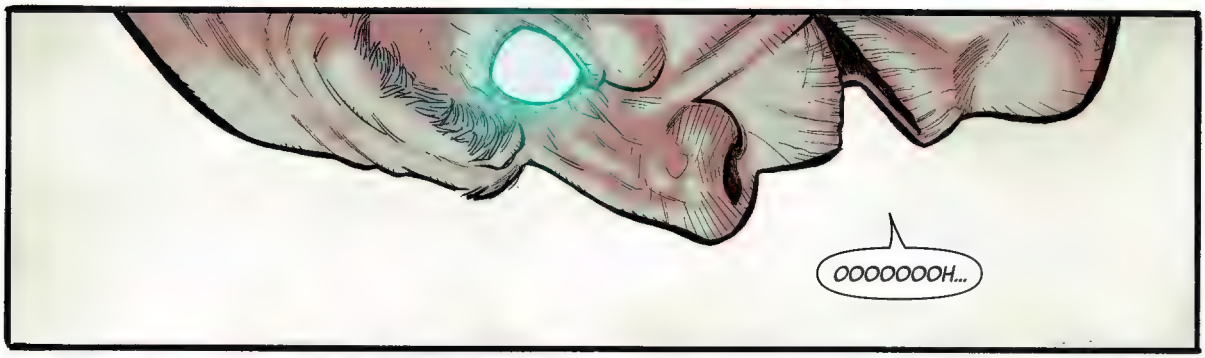
GUT HIM LIKE A FISH, MY LOVE.

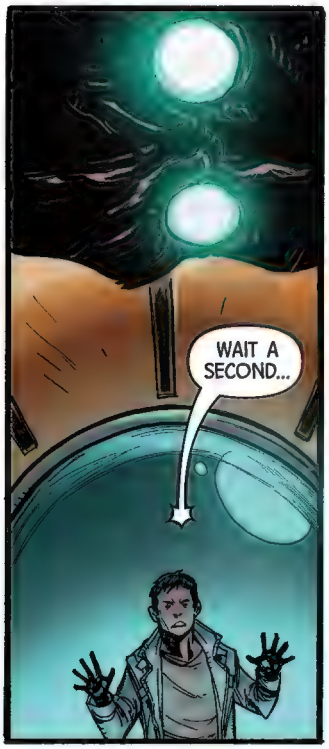
SMSHHHHH
RRAAAAGH!
THIS WON'T SAVE YOU, MAXIMUS!
WE'VE GOT HIM NOW, KLUDGE!
THIS IS THE BEST DAY OF MY LIFE!

MY FACTORY! NO! WHAT IS HAPPENING?
MAXIMUS, PAL. MAXIMUS IS HAPPENING.
KRRGK
OOF.
THIS THING'S TOUGH, KLUDGE. LOOKS LIKE WE NEED TO BRING OUT THE BIG GUNS.
BIG GUN?
OH, OF COURSE. YOU'RE RIGHT. I DIDN'T MEAN BIG GUN.

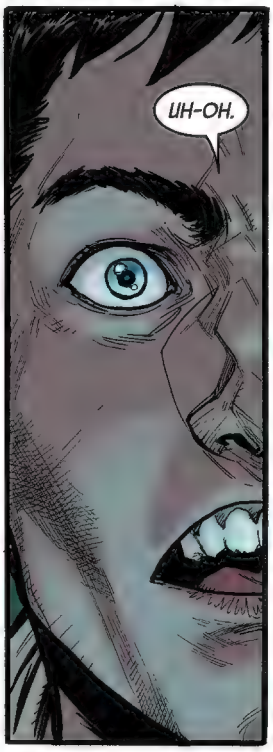
RRRRR?
I MEANT BIG SWORD.
HMM.
SHHKK
HUH.


WHAT ARE THE ODDS OF *THAT?*


OOOOOOOH...


WAIT A SECOND...

SAY, KLUDGE-- WHERE DID WE LAND ON POWERING THE ENERGY SWORD WITH TERRIGEN? DID WE DECIDE TO USE TERRIGEN?
TERRIGEN. LOTS AND LOTS OF TERRIGEN. PRETTY GREEN TERRIGEN.

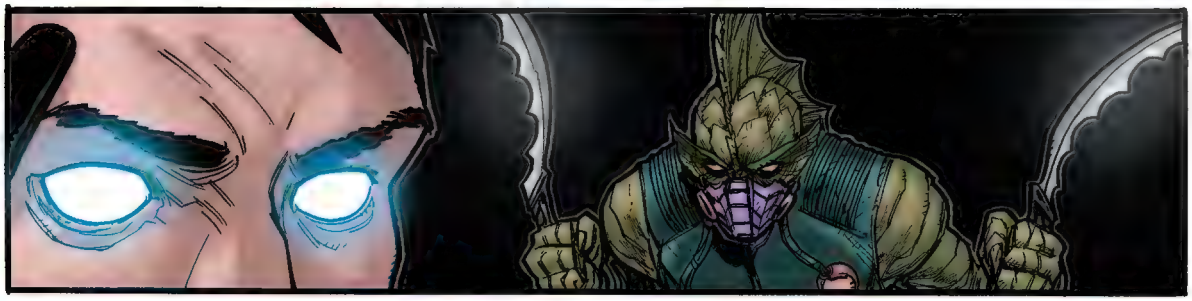

UH-OH.

HA HA HA!
YESSSS!
GOOOOOD!
TURN IT OFF! TURN OFF THE SWORD, YOU IDIOT!
IDIOT? I THOUGHT WE WERE FRIENDS.
THANK YOU, MAXIMUS. THAT WAS REMARKABLE.

KTHOOOM
LIKE A FISH.
NOW THIS WORLD BELONGS TO ME. MY NAME SHALL BE SPOKEN ONCE AGAIN.
AND MY NAME SHALL BE *FEAR*.

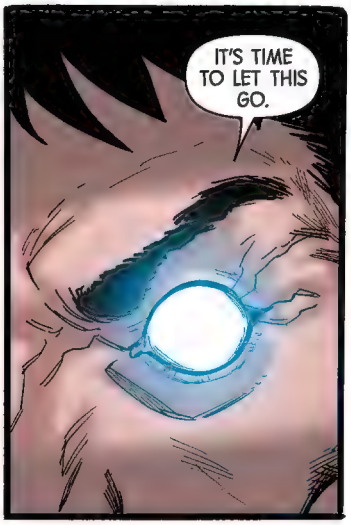
MAXIMUS-- WHAT DID YOU DO?
I DIDN'T... I DIDN'T MEAN TO...WHAT ARE THE ODDS?
--BECAUSE IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO.
HA!
I CAN DO THIS. HIS BRAIN MIGHT BE BIGGER NOW, BUT IT'S STILL A BRAIN.
I CAN DO THIS.
MAN. LOOK AT HIM GO. SURE GLAD I'M NOT ON HIS BAD SIDE.
I HAVE TO FIX THIS. I HAVE TO STOP HIM.
WHY? BECAUSE YOU BETRAYED HIM, LIKE, TEN TIMES AND HE HATES YOU AND HE'LL PROBABLY EAT YOU ONCE HE REALIZES YOU AREN'T DEAD?
NO, LINEAGE--
HNH.
GET OUT OF MY HEAD, MAXIMUS!

MAXIMUS!
I AM GOING TO CRUCIFY YOU!
TRITON, LINEAGE, WOULD YOU HANDLE THAT FOR ME, PLEASE? I REALLY NEED TO FOCUS RIGHT NOW.



WHAT THE--
SSSK
GAH!

CRUSH YOU LIKE A BUG...
ALL RIGHT, BIG GUY.


IT'S TIME TO LET THIS GO.

LET...
...IT...
SZZZZRMMMM
...GOOOOOOO...
WELL, PHEW.

MMMF!
I DON'T GET YOU, TRITON. THAT WAS THE PERFECT CHANCE TO GET RID OF MAXIMUS, AND YOU WENT AFTER BANYAN INSTEAD.
I JUST DON'T GET YOU, MAN.
MM.
DID YOU GUYS SEE THAT? FUNNY THING, BEING A HERO. YOU CAN PLAN ALL YOU WANT, BUT IT REALLY ALL COMES DOWN TO THAT ONE MOMENT. POW--AND YOU SAVE THE DAY.
A HERO? MAXIMUS--YOU CAUSED ALL OF THIS. YOU STOPPED THE UNSPOKEN TO SAVE YOUR OWN SKIN.
YOU'RE NOTHING LIKE A HERO.
WELL, TRITON, OLD FRIEND, I THOUGHT IT OVER, AND I DECIDED IT WAS A TERRIBLE IDEA.
I JUST CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT. YOU KNOW HOW TO MAKE TERRIGEN. I KNOW YOU DO--THAT SWORD WOULDN'T HAVE TRIGGERED THE UNSPOKEN IF YOU DIDN'T.
FOR RANDAC'S SAKE, WHY WON'T YOU JUST MAKE THE CRYSTALS?

INHUMANS HAVE RELIED ON TERRIGEN FOR SO *LONG.* WE'VE BASED OUR ENTIRE EXISTENCE AROUND IT.
I THINK IT'S TIME WE *EVOLVE,* AND WE'LL NEVER DO THAT UNLESS WE'RE--

OH, HEY, *FEAR.* NICE TO HAVE YOU BACK.
HEY.
ANYWAY, LIKE I WAS SAYING. WE'LL NEVER EVOLVE UNLESS WE'RE *PUSHED.*

OR MAYBE HALF THE WORLD WANTS YOU DEAD, AND BEING THE ONLY PERSON IN THE WORLD WHO COULD GIVE US TERRIGEN BACK IS A PERFECT WAY TO KEEP THAT FROM HAPPENING.
OH, I GET IT NOW. *THAT'S* WHY YOU DIDN'T DO IT.
MM.

WHO KNOWS, OLD FRIENDS, WHO KNOWS? I DON'T LIKE TO OVERTHINK THINGS.
FOR ME, AND THOSE HEROES *LIKE* ME, IT'S JUST ONE THING:
POW.

AND YOU SAVE THE DAY.

INHUMANS VS X-MEN

MEDUSA

BLACK BOLT

The war between the Inhumans and The X-Men culminated in a colossal battle at the site of the last remaining Terrigen Cloud, where it became clear that neither side was backing down. Choosing to put the planetary peace above the needs of her people, Medusa, Queen of the Inhumans, destroyed the cloud using a machine built by the young Inhumans.

Now, like Black Bolt before her, Medusa has abdicated her throne and looks forward to whatever lies ahead...

EPILOGUE

CHARLES SOULE
WRITER

KIM JACINTO
ARTIST

JAVA TARTAGLIA
COLOR ARTIST

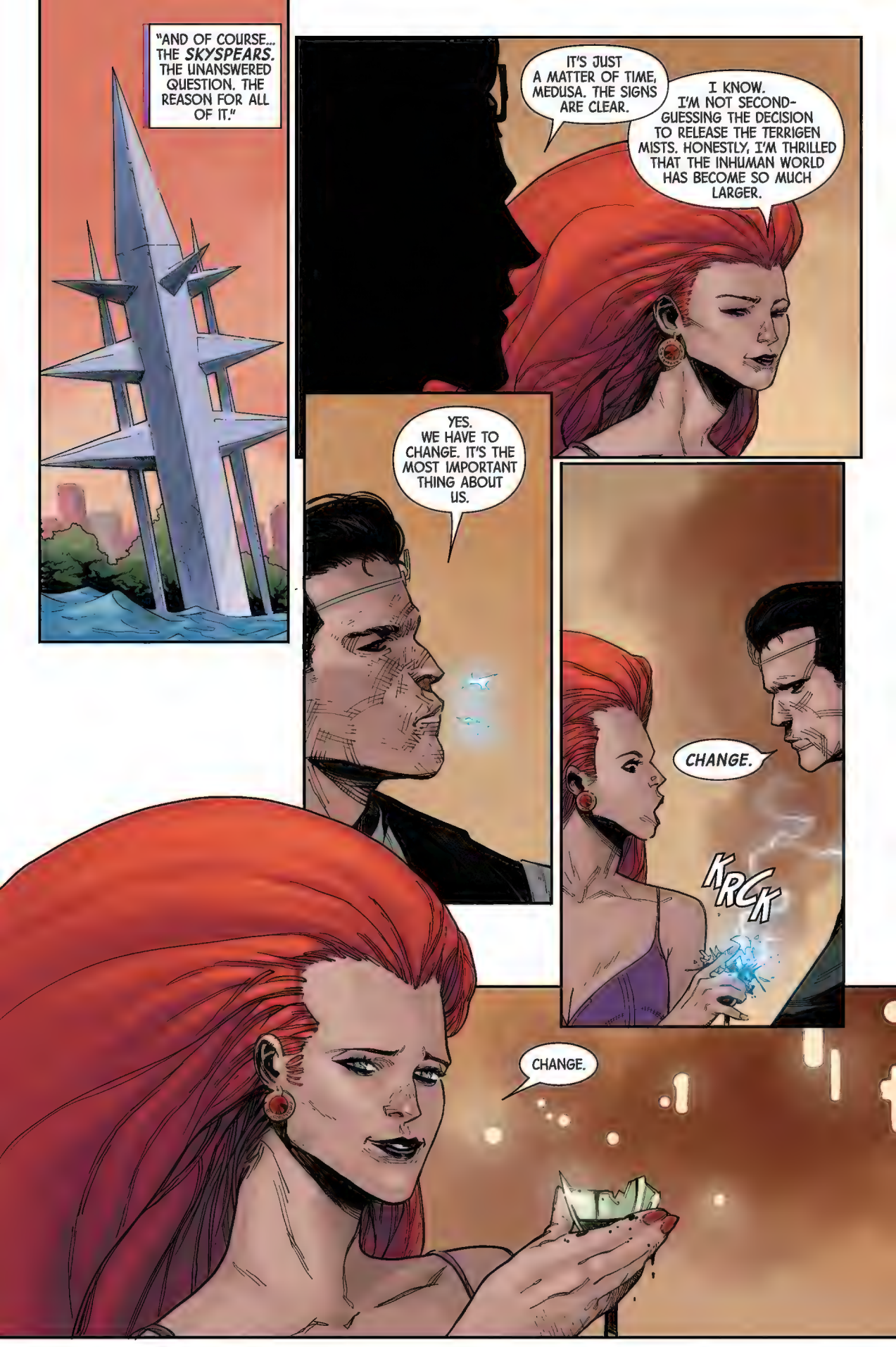
VC'S CLAYTON COWLES
LETTERER

THE QUIET ROOM.
FOR THE FIRST TIME I CAN REMEMBER...
...ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN.
I FEEL EXACTLY THE SAME WAY.

EVERY TIME YOU SPEAK, IT'S LIKE THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER HEARD YOU. I'LL NEVER GET USED TO IT, BLACK BOLT.
YOU SHOULDN'T. I CAN FEEL MYSELF HEALING FROM EMMA FROST'S ATTACK.* IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL...
*SEE IVX #1.
UNTIL NO ONE HEARS YOUR VOICE UNLESS THE WORLD'S ABOUT TO END.
IN A WAY, FROST DID ME A FAVOR. YOU AND I ARE ACTUALLY HAVING A REAL CONVERSATION. WHO KNOWS WHEN WE'LL DO THIS AGAIN?
EMMA FROST. HNH. SAY WHAT YOU LIKE--BUT THE WOMAN KNOWS HOW TO GET WHAT SHE WANTS.
I HAVE A QUESTION, AND I WANT TO ASK IT WHILE YOU'RE ABLE TO ANSWER WITH SOMETHING OTHER THAN AN AMBIGUOUS GESTURE.
OF COURSE.

WHEN YOU AND MAXIMUS RELEASED THE TERRIGEN CLOUDS INTO EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE,* DID YOU HAVE ANY IDEA THAT IT WOULD BE POISONOUS TO MUTANTS?
*SEE THE INFINITY TPB.
NO, MEDUSA. NEVER.
MY REASONS WERE GOOD AT THE TIME--EITHER OUR SPECIES GREW OR WE'D DIE IN THE FIRE TO COME--
--BUT IF I'D KNOWN WHAT WOULD HAPPEN...
...THEN NO. NEVER.
I KNOW. I JUST WANTED TO HEAR YOU SAY IT.
IF YOU'D KNOWN WHAT WOULD HAPPEN... HA.
NO ONE COULD HAVE KNOWN WHAT WOULD HAPPEN.

"THE END OF ATTILAN, AND THE BEGINNING YOU GAVE US.
"NEW ATTILAN.
"THE EMERGENCE OF LASH AND THOSE OTHERS WHO WISHED TO DESTROY IT.
"THE DAY YOU LEFT IT BEHIND. LEFT IT TO *ME*.
"LINEAGE, AND HIS TWISTED SCHEME TO BURN OUR FAMILY DOWN.
"WHEN WE LOST OUR SON, AND FOUND HIM AGAIN.
"JOHNNY...
"THE RISE OF THE NUHUMANS.
"THE DESTRUCTION OF TONY STARK, WHICH WAS NEARLY OUR *OWN* DESTRUCTION AS WELL.


"AND OF COURSE... THE *SKYSPEARS.* THE UNANSWERED QUESTION. THE REASON FOR ALL OF IT."
IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME, MEDUSA. THE SIGNS ARE CLEAR.
I KNOW. I'M NOT SECOND-GUESSING THE DECISION TO RELEASE THE TERRIGEN MISTS. HONESTLY, I'M THRILLED THAT THE INHUMAN WORLD HAS BECOME SO MUCH LARGER.
YES. WE HAVE TO CHANGE. IT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT THING ABOUT US.
CHANGE.
KRCK
CHANGE.

PARDON THE INTERRUPTION, BUT EVERYONE HAS ASSEMBLED. THEY'RE WAITING IN THE LARGE BANQUET ROOM.
OF COURSE, FLAGMAN. THANK YOU. LEAD THE WAY.
AFTER YOU, YOUR MAJESTY.
OH, NO, FLAGMAN. NOT ANYMORE. I GAVE UP THE THRONE.

TO THE QUEEN!
NOT TONIGHT YOU DIDN'T.
THANK YOU. THANK YOU ALL.
BUT I THINK, PERHAPS...ANOTHER TOAST.
RAISE YOUR GLASSES. SAY IT WITH ME.

TO THE FUTURE!
THE END.

NEXT,

THE FUTURE BEGINS IN:

INHUMANS PRIME #1!

Once upon a time, I was asked to massively expand the role of the Inhumans in the Marvel Universe. That conversation happened in late 2013, at a restaurant not far from the Marvel offices in midtown Manhattan. I was...surprised. I hadn't done much at Marvel up to that point, and it was a vote of confidence I wasn't expecting to get yet (or ever). If you're reading this, you probably already know that I said yes, before I even really understood what I was being offered – I've loved Black Bolt, Medusa and the others for as long as I've been reading comics, and a chance to write them was a no-brainer.

And now, almost three and a half years later...after two full series (INHUMAN and UNCANNY INHUMANS) and three pretty significant minis (ATTILAN RISING, DEATH OF X and, of course, IVX) comprising about 50 issues of storytelling... here we are. My last issue on the Inhumans franchise, at least for now.

The mandate for this job, from the start, was "make new stuff." Do you realize how rare that is in an established super-hero universe? I was directed to create new heroes, new villains, new locations and mythology, and due to the nature of the brilliant setup Jonathan Hickman had given me in his INFINITY series, the possibilities were endless. And I did my best to use that endless canvas, alongside all the incredible artists who brought it all to life.

Joe Madureira started things off, but from there the list includes some of the best pencilers, inkers and colorists working today: Ryan Stegman, Steve McNiven, Pepe Larraz, Kim Jacinto, Brandon Peterson, Kev Walker, Carlos Pacheco, R.B. Silva, Adriano Di Benedetto, Ario Anindito, André Araújo, Aaron Kuder, Leinil Yu, Jay Leisten, John Timms, Roberto Poggi, Javier Garrón, Justin Ponsor, Richard Isanove, Marte Gracia, Sunny Gho, Java Tartaglia, David Curiel, Frank D'Armata and Antonio Fabela. Such an incredible group, and I'm lucky to have worked with them all.

I believe Clayton Cowles lettered every single issue, and dealt with my overwordiness and last-minute changes with his customary skill and aplomb. Clayton is one of the very best letterers out there, and I'm so glad we could do the whole series together.

And of course...the editors. Nick Lowe and Axel Alonso gave me the shot on this title, and I'm eternally grateful for the opportunity. Wil Moss brought my run to the finish line, and will oversee the Inhuman group as it moves forward into amazing new places. Darren Shan, Charles Beacham and so many others at the Marvel offices all had their hands in this run, and it couldn't have happened without them.

My final thought on the completion of my single longest comics run to date? It was all just so much FUN. It always felt like there was so much possibility in these characters, and I tried to live up to that. If you read this run from start to finish you'll get one huge, interconnected story, with a wonderful main character in Medusa. This book was always about the queen – her struggles to hold her nation together, and her ultimate success even at great personal cost. Inhumanity is about change, and we see that happen in spades, to the extent that the future of these characters could contain anything at all (as it should be!). The books contained *Game of Thrones*-style intrigue, super hero action, romance, meditations on grief and humanity, weird humor, you name it. We felt like we could do anything we wanted, and that's what we tried to do.

It's sad to leave, and I'll miss these characters. Still, I feel like we all built something special, and created a new(ish) corner of the Marvel Universe where these characters can live and thrive for some time to come. And don't worry – I'm heading off to tell other stories, but the Inhumans (new and old) are in very good hands with Al Ewing, Saladin Ahmed, Matthew Rosenberg and the other writers and artists who will be telling you their stories. Best of luck to all of them, and I can't wait to see what they do.

So, there you go. I've said my little piece – as my last thought, let me thank you for reading – this was one hell of a fantastic job, and it would never have happened without you. And now...as Medusa says at the end of my final issue... TO THE FUTURE!

Charles Soule
Brooklyn, NY
February 2017